

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 7 are canceled, and claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 18, and 19 are amended.

Double Patenting

The Examiner objected to Claim 17 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 4–16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited prior art. The Examiner allowed Claim 20 and advised that Claims 13–16 would be allowable if the limitation “wherein the distance between the respective forks and the length of each fork may be adjusted to accommodate different sizes of bales” was added to Claim 13.

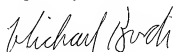
In response the Applicant has amended Claim 13 to include that limitation, and Claims 14–16 depend from Claim 13, and so also include the limitation. Applicant has made an earnest effort to be fully responsive to the Examiner’s objections and believes that Claims 13–16 as amended herein, are in condition for allowance. The Applicant solicits the allowance of Claims 13–16 in addition to the presently allowed Claim 20.

If, however, the Examiner should for any reason consider this application not to be in condition for allowance he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Bondi".

Michael A. Bondi
Registration No. 39,616

Customer No. 28020
Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, P.A.
P.O. Box 2906
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0906
Phone: 612-632-3000
Fax: 612-632-4444